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15 WEST 47TH STREET, NEW YORK 36, N. Y. COLUMBUS 5-7880

YELLS DRIER, ALEX
CIA 1-04 POWERS, GARY

CIA 2-06.6 (POWERS)
I+5 H GENERAL
I+5 1-01.1 USSR ABEL
PERS ABEL, RUDOLPH
CIA 5-01.4 HS

FOR: CIA - Mail Room Library

PROGRAM ALEX DRIER

STATION WMAL Radio and
ABC Network

DATE May 5, 1965

CITY Washington, D. C.

ALEX DRIER: "And now off on a tangent, or is it really?

"You know, once upon a time, spying was considered rather an unsavory activity. Most people thought of official snooping as something akin to dirty pool, essential, perhaps, but not for them. But today's spying has been elevated to the rarified atmosphere of a super-hero business, and today's spy, both real life and fictional, is considered a couple of status notches above submarine commanders, fighter pilots and other super-heroes.

"Spying is still supposed to be super-secret, of course. Last night a network television documentary told the nation all about the Central Intelligence Agency and some of the many extra-national activities it has been engaging in. And many of this morning's newspapers told how the super-secret CIA held a super-secret ceremony a couple of weeks ago, at it's super-secret headquarters in Virginia, and pinned a super-secret medal on the chest of former super-secret U2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers. Now, the medal is so secret that Powers isn't supposed to wear it and this recalls the unfortunate circumstance surrounding at least one of Powers' achievements: getting shot down over the Soviet Union at a delicate time when President Eisenhower and Nikita Khrushchev were about to hold a significant meeting. The U-2 incident threw cold water on the meeting on the two most powerful heads of state of the world. Powers was jailed and eventually exchanged for Soviet master spy Rudolph Abel, and some American observers felt that it was an unfair trade and that the Soviets should have thrown in some extra players and some cash, but the Russians never seem to want to play ball our way.

Curiously, the Russians no longer pretend that they aren't heavily engaged in the spy business too. And only yesterday, they revealed that they had given master-spy Abel a medal too. Of course all this puts a real grin on the handsome features of fictional James Bond, the master spy's master spy. Bond may occasionally find himself shot up, but never down, and if he gets his well-manicured paws caught in a top secret file, he always seems to retrieve them

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